



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

for the Year ended December 1965.

October 1966.

J. Gareth M. Williams.  
Medical Officer of Health

H. G. Fawcett  
Public Health Inspector.



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1965.

I have the honour to present this, my first Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Llangollen Urban District for the year ended 31st December 1965.

In many ways this is a report with a difference, in that the period under review fell entirely within the tenure of my predecessor Dr. T. Kendrick Hughes. Any comments that I have to make therefore, are based purely on statistics supplied to me from the various sources available.

It is pleasing to note that no major outbreaks of any infectious disease occurred during the year. The risk of these occurring is always somewhat greater in holiday towns such as ours which cater for several thousands of incomers particularly during summer months.

In the field of environmental health the erection of new houses, both council owned and by private enterprise, continued apace. The new sewerage scheme is proving totally satisfactory.

It is customary in these reports for the Medical Officer to thank his colleagues and the Council for their co-operation and support during the year. This, for obvious reasons, I cannot do; but may I say, outside the context of this report, how welcome I myself have been made to feel in the few months which I have held office during 1966.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of paying my own personal tribute to my predecessor Dr. Kendrick Hughes whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for several years both as a friend and colleague.



I. GENERAL STATISTICS etc.

|                                                                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Area of District in acres .....                                                      | 3,107       |
| Registrar General's estimate of population ....                                      | 3,010       |
| Number of Inhabited houses .....                                                     | 1,120       |
| Rateable Value of the District as at<br>1st October 1965 .....                       | £ 101,562   |
| Sum represented by product of a Penny Rate<br>for the year ended 31st March 1965.... | £ 403.4.10. |

POPULATION.

The population estimate of 3,010 shows an increase of 10 over the figure for 1964 (3,000) and returned in fact to the 1963 figure.

II. VITAL STATISTICS.

1. LIVE BIRTHS.

The total of 42 shows a decrease of 12 as compared with 1964 (54). As usual the majority were born in hospital. Of the total 18 were males and 24 females. There were no illegitimate births.

2. STILL BIRTHS.

It is pleasing to note that no stillbirths occurred during the year. ( 3 in 1964, 1 in 1963 ).

3. BIRTH RATE (Comparability factor 1.16).

The birth rate was 13.90 but when adjusted for comparison with England and Wales was 16.1. This figure is lower than that for England and Wales which was 18.1.

4. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during 1965 was 40 (14 males, 26 females). This shows an increase over 1964 and 1963 when the totals were 34 for each year.

When the deaths are subdivided into age-groups it is found that no deaths at all occurred under the age of 45 years. The summary is given below:

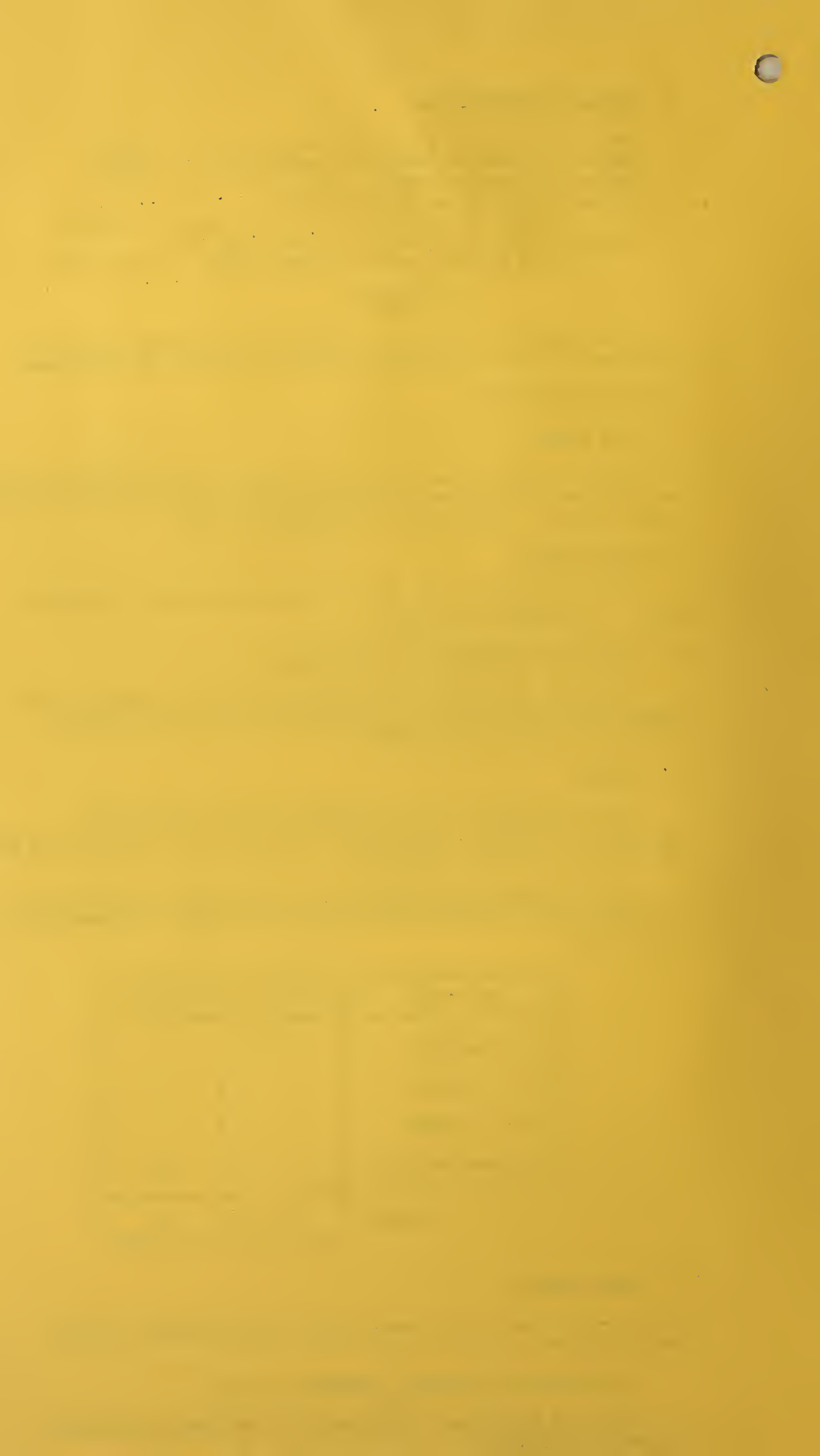
| Age Groups        | Males | Females. |
|-------------------|-------|----------|
| 45 - 54 years     | Nil   | 1        |
| 55 - 64 years     | 4     | 6        |
| 65 - 74 years     | 4     | 7        |
| 75 years and over | 6     | 12       |
| Totals.           | 14    | 26       |

5. INFANT DEATHS.

As can be seen in the above table no infant deaths occurred during the year.

The Infant Mortality Rate therefore was nil.

(That for England and Wales was 19.0 - the lowest figure ever recorded nationally).



## 6. DEATH RATE (Comparability factor 0.90)

The death rate was 13.3. When adjusted for comparison with England and Wales this comes to 11.97 which is slightly higher than the national figure of 11.5.

## 7. ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

These can be generally subdivided as follows:-

|                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Diseases of the heart and circulation .... | 22        |
| Cancer .....                               | 8         |
| Respiratory diseases .....                 | 6         |
| Accidents .....                            | 3         |
| Others .....                               | <u>1</u>  |
| Total                                      | <u>40</u> |

Following the general pattern that has evolved in this country in recent years diseases of the heart and circulation account for the vast majority of deaths. Of the 22 deaths in this group 12 were the result of "strokes" and 8 the result of coronary artery disease. These and other degenerative conditions are now firmly established as the main causes of death in Britain and infective conditions (e.g. Tuberculosis) have receded into the background.

As can be seen cancer accounted for 8 deaths. It is interesting to note that of this total only one was attributable to cancer of the lung - the condition that is related to excessive cigarette smoking. In England and Wales deaths from lung cancer have multiplied more than five-fold since 1920.

## 8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year was exceptionally low consisting of 2 cases of measles and one of food-poisoning only. This may not reflect the true incidence of infectious disease as General Practitioners often find that they are too busy to notify all cases which occur.

It is gratifying to note that for the third year in succession no cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

## 9. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

### (a) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised during 1965 sub-divided into age groups:-

| YEAR<br>of<br>BIRTH | DIPHTHERIA |          | WHOOPIING<br>COUGH |          | TETANUS |           |
|---------------------|------------|----------|--------------------|----------|---------|-----------|
|                     | Primary    | Boosters | Primary            | Boosters | Primary | Boosters. |
| 1965                | 9          | -        | 9                  | -        | 9       | -         |
| 1964                | 28         | 13       | 28                 | 13       | 28      | 13        |
| 1963                | 2          | 32       | 2                  | 32       | 2       | 32        |
| 1962                | -          | 11       | -                  | 11       | -       | 11        |
| 1958-1961           | 2          | 50       | 2                  | 41       | 2       | 41        |
| 1948-1957           | -          | 3        | -                  | 3        | -       | 3         |
| Totals              | 41         | 109      | 41                 | 100      | 41      | 100       |



It will be noted that the total figures in each column are practically identical. This is because all three vaccines are administered together in the "Triple Antigen", although some older children receive Diphtheria boosters only. This accounts for the slightly higher figure in this column. The figures as a whole show a tremendous increase over 1964, when only a total of 13 children received primary doses and 23 received boosters.

(b) Poliomyelitis.

Number of persons vaccinated against Poliomyelitis during 1965:

| YEAR<br>of<br>BIRTH | SALK    |         | SABIN (ORAL) |         |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|
|                     | Primary | Booster | Primary      | Booster |
| 1965                | -       | -       | 4            | -       |
| 1964                | 2       | 1       | 41           | 2       |
| 1963                | -       | -       | 2            | 5       |
| 1962                | -       | -       | 5            | 2       |
| 1958-61             | -       | 8       | 6            | 27      |
| 1948-57             | -       | -       | 1            | 37      |
| Others              | -       | -       | 10           | 26      |
| Totals              | 2       | 8       | 69           | 99      |

Here again there is a tremendous increase in the total numbers receiving protection as compared with 1964 (11 primary doses and 6 boosters only in 1964).

It was during 1962 that the oral (Sabin) vaccine superceded the type given by injection (Salk) and this has for obvious reasons increased the popularity of polio immunisation with the public.

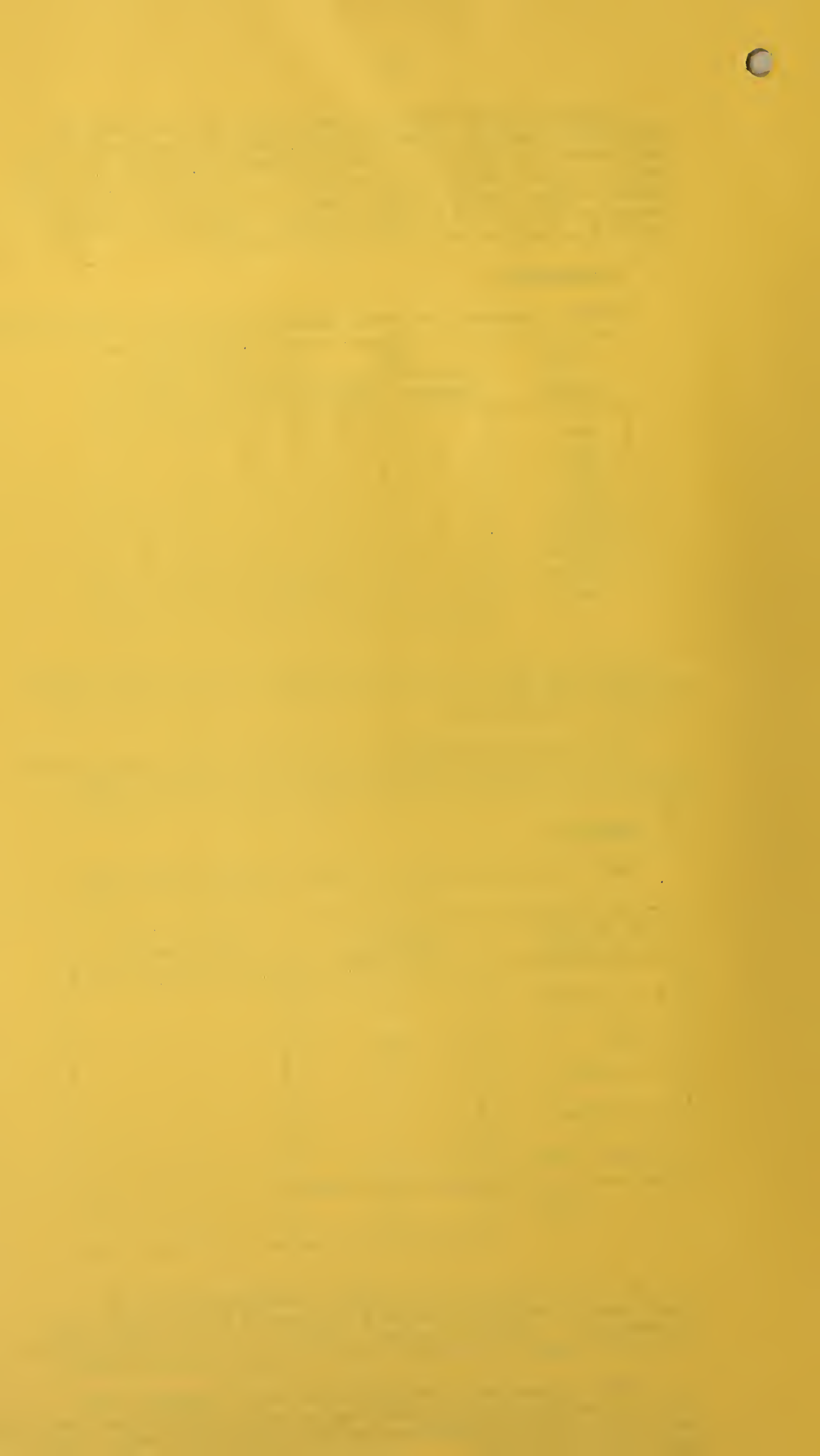
(c) Smallpox.

Number of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1965.

| Age at date<br>of vaccination | Primary<br>Vaccination | Re-vaccination. |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 0 - 12 months                 | 4                      | -               |
| 1 Year                        | 34                     | -               |
| 2 - 4 years                   | 6                      | -               |
| 5 - 14 years                  | -                      | -               |
| 15 years & over               | 3                      | 4               |
| Totals                        | 47                     | 4               |

As can be seen this is the form of immunisation that is least taken advantage of, although the overall figures again show a substantial increase over 1964 (Total 8). It is now the custom to administer primary vaccinations upon attaining the age of 1 year.

Since vaccination of infants ceased to be compulsory after the last war the proportion receiving protection has dropped alarmingly. The result of this is that there are more susceptible persons than before in this country.



We are becoming increasingly dependent on the vigilance kept at air and sea ports to prevent infected persons entering the country.

10. MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE.

The Service again visited the area during the year. This is an extremely valuable service and is one of the many contributory causes to the decline of tuberculosis as a great social disease. Early detection of lesions by X-ray before symptoms have appeared leads to complete eradication of the disease in its infancy.

11. CHIROPODY SERVICE.

The County Council are responsible for the provision of this service which commenced in Llangollen during 1962.

The following table summarises the services provided during 1965:

| No. on register<br>at 31.13.65 | No of sessions<br>held in 1965 | New cases<br>in 1965 | Total No.<br>of<br>attendances | No.on waiting<br>list at<br>31.12.65 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 97                             | 60                             | 22                   | 526                            | 2                                    |

It is most pleasing to note that only two persons were awaiting first treatments at the end of the year. This, together with the highly satisfactory total figures are a tribute to the efficiency of the service in the area.

J. Gareth M. Williams,

Medical Officer of Health.

October 1966.







Chemical Analysis of Public Supply.

|                                                               |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Appearance .....                                              | clear and colourless     |
| Odour .....                                                   | nil                      |
| Reaction pH .....                                             | 7.1                      |
|                                                               | <u>parts per million</u> |
| Total solids .....                                            | 141                      |
| Nitrogen as free & Saline ammonia .....                       | 0.07                     |
| Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia .....                          | 0.00                     |
| Nitrogen as nitrites .....                                    | moderate                 |
| Nitrogen as nitrates .....                                    | 1.0                      |
| Chlorides, as Cl .....                                        | 16                       |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in<br>4 hours at 27°C ..... | 1.0                      |
| Total hardness .....                                          | 81                       |
| Temporary hardness .....                                      | 16                       |
| Permanent hardness .....                                      | 65                       |
| Alkalinity .....                                              | 16                       |
| Free Chlorine .....                                           | 0.08                     |
| Potassium as K .....                                          | -                        |
| Anionic Synthetic detergents .....                            | -                        |
| Manganese as Mn .....                                         | less than 0.025          |
| Cyanides and Thiocyanates .....                               | nil                      |
| Poisonous metals .....                                        | nil                      |

Opinion. The Chemical analysis does not indicate serious pollution and if the bacteriological condition is satisfactory, the water is safe for drinking purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The results of samples taken by the Dee and Clwyd River Authority indicate that the quality of the effluent from the sewage disposal works is satisfactory.

For several years erosion of the River Bank up stream of Park Avenue Housing Estate has been taking place with the exceptional flood conditions of December 1964 further erosion took place and the river bank around the first manhole of the sewerage system was affected. Further flood conditions during December 1965 made it imperative that the Council take action to prevent damage to their sewerage system.

The Ministry were informed of the position and negotiations were opened with the Dee and Clwyd River Authority to enlist their aid in the arrest of the erosion.

The Flood conditions of the river also eroded the railway retaining wall and embankment East of the Dee Bridge in which there is another sewerage manhole. By arrangement with British Rail re-instatement of the retaining wall and embankment was carried out jointly.

For some years the sewer in West Street had been giving trouble and at the end of 1964 it became apparant that a <sup>section</sup> ~~seating~~ had collapsed and the sewer was blocked.

In January contractors were engated to excavate to the sewer and carryout an examination and repairs.

Approximately 30 yards of 15" diameter sewer were renewed the average depth of the sewer was 12'0". No further trouble has been experienced with this length of sewer.



### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, all premises except for outlying houses receive a weekly collection.

The outlying premises receive a fortnightly collection.

The method of disposal is by controlled tipping at the Council's refuse tip at Wenffrwd.

Business premises especially catering establishments may have additional collections based on a fixed charge, there is also a charge for persons transporting their own trade waste to the refuse tip for disposal by the Council.

A new refuse collecting vehicle was acquired during the year to replace the 7 cubic yard side loader which had been in continuous use for 10 years.

The new vehicle is a Karrier Bantam 12 cubic yard Dual tip junior refuse collector fitted with a packer plate.

The larger capacity body and packer plate are essential if only one vehicle is to be employed on refuse collecting work.

### HOUSING.

Three houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.

At the end of the year the flats at Maes Pengwern were nearing completion, <sup>they consist of</sup> ~~there are~~ eight three bedroom flats, five one bedroom, five bedsitting room type for aged persons and five two bedroomed maisonettes.

In December a Public Inquiry was held to hear objections to the Council's proposal to make a Clearance Order on 1, 2, 3 Holly Cottages, Penycoed and 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, Brook Place.

There are five families living in these houses and it is proposed to re-house them in the Maes Pengwern Flats.

The Council are also negotiating for the purchase of Nos. 2 - 10 Queen Street, 4 - 11 Pengwern Square and 1, 3, 9, 11 Brook Street. Families from these properties will also be rehoused in the flats.

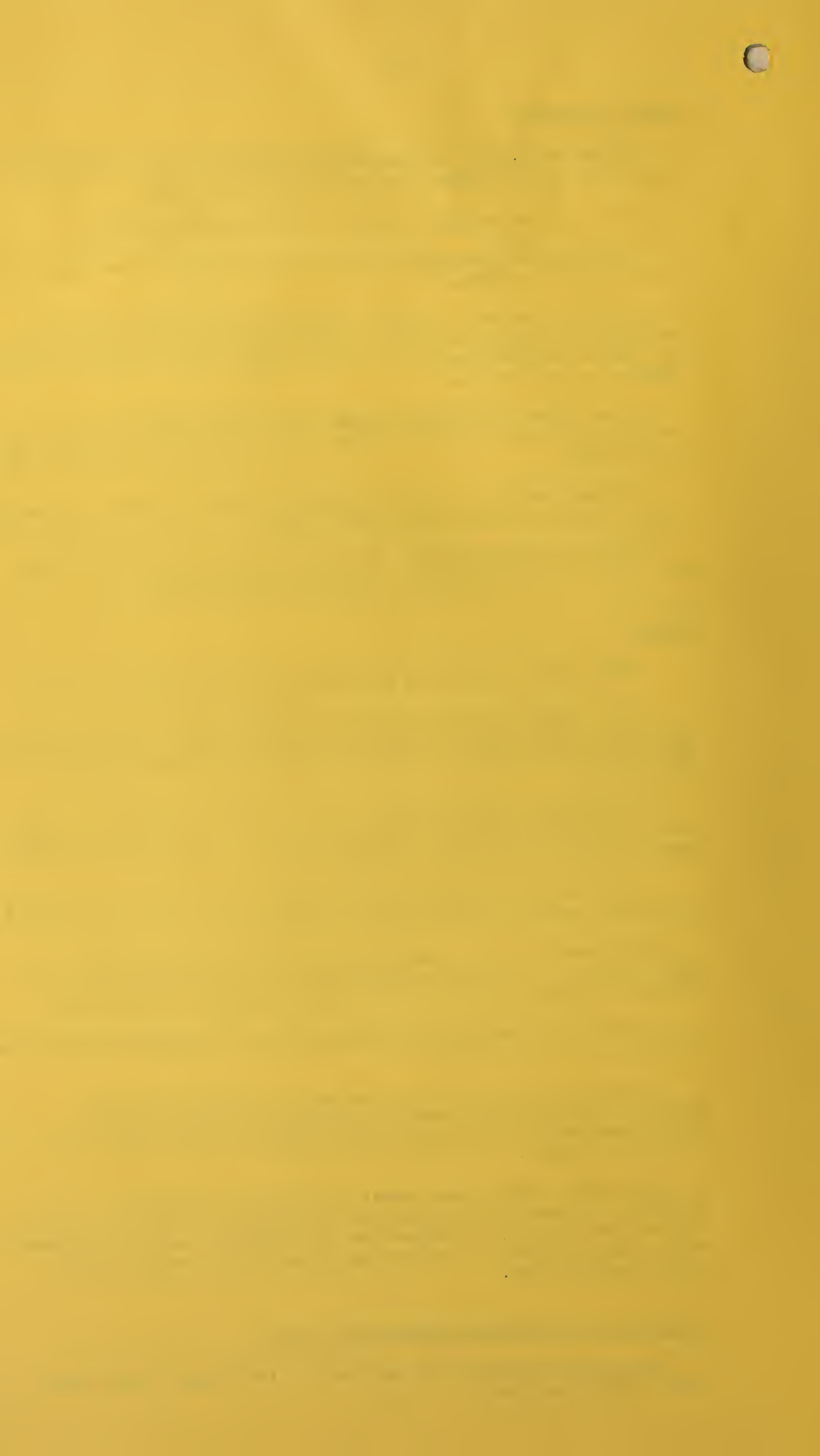
Following rehousing the properties will be demolished and the sites cleared.

During the year the Council instructed their Architects to prepare a scheme for the erection of 23 three bedroomed houses on the Maes Pengwern Site and to make provision in the layout for a further ten houses.

This will complete development of land in the Council's ownership and consideration will have to be given to the acquisition of further land in order to complete the sub-standard clearance programme and to make provision for re-housing persons on the council house general waiting list.

### STANDARD AND DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council approved four applications for Standard Improvement Grants during the year.



A Standard Grant application was received in respect of a terrace of four houses. The application was refused on the grounds that the proposals submitted would not provide houses fit for human habitation having regard to Section 4 of the Housing Act 1957.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

The Council have one trained rodent operator who gives part of his time to this service. Two comprehensive sewer treatments were carried out successfully during the year and numerous minor treatments were given to infestations of both rats and mice in private houses.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are six caravans sited on one farm and one on another farm in the area for which a licence has been granted under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

There is no organised camping site in the area and during the summer months scores of tents are set up in fields around the Town. Some parties are well organised and orderly but a few are unruly and tend to give tenting a bad reputation.

#### FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Twenty nine visits have been made to premises where food is prepared and sold for human consumption.

The standard of cleanliness and management is well maintained.

The following table gives details of the foodstuffs which have been condemned as unfit during the year.

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Fruit and vegetables ..... | 117 lb. |
| Fish .....                 | 2 lb.   |
| Canned meat .....          | 8 lb.   |
| Other goods .....          | 12 lb.  |

#### ICE CREAM.

30 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of prepacked Ice cream only.

Periodic visits are made to ensure that the premises and apparatus conform with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act.

#### MARKETS.

Weekly auction sales have been held in the market throughout the year.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES.

The County Council is now the Authority for issuing licenses to retail milk. There is one retail dairy in the town and two grocers shops are licensed to retail sterilised milk.



OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 - SCHEDULE.

Registrations and General Inspections.

| Class of Premises                                     | Number of premises registered during Year | Number of registered premises at end of year | Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year; |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Offices                                               | -                                         | 18                                           | -                                                                             |
| Retail shops                                          | 1                                         | 30                                           | 6                                                                             |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses                           | -                                         | 3                                            | 1                                                                             |
| Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens. | -                                         | 11                                           | 5                                                                             |
| Totals                                                | 1                                         | 62                                           | 12                                                                            |

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act ..... 12.

FACTORIES.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

|                                                                                                           | No. on Register | NUMBER OF   |                  |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                                                           |                 | Inspections | Written notices. | occupiers prosecuted. |
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.                   | 2               | 4           | Nil              | Nil                   |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.                  | 22              | 44          | Nil              | Nil                   |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | 2               | 2           | Nil              | Nil                   |
| TOTALS.                                                                                                   | 26              | 50          | Nil              | Nil                   |



Cases in which defects were remedied.

| Particulars              | Found | Remedied | Referred to<br>H. M. Inspector. |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Want of cleanliness      | Nil   | Nil      | -                               |
| Unreasonable temperature | Nil   | Nil      | -                               |
| Inadequate ventilation   | Nil   | Nil      | -                               |
| Overcrowding             | Nil   | Nil      | -                               |

Yours obediently,

(SIGNED) H. G. FAWCETT

Public Health Inspector.





